

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 22, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-7 are rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below. Claims 2 and 5-7 have been amended to correct matters of form. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention.

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 in the Office Action as being anticipated by the Verdonk patent (US patent 6,330,454, issued on December 11, 2001, hereinafter Verdonk). In response, the Applicants have amended claims 1-2 and 5-7. Independent claim 1 was amended in order to more clearly recite the aspects of the invention, while claims 2 and 5-7 were amended to correct informalities noted by the Examiner or to maintain proper dependency.

Verdonk teaches a method and system for locating mobile units operating in a wireless communications system. In particular, a location request for a mobile unit is received and is subsequently forwarded to a mobile switching center that is serving the mobile unit. If the original location request included a request for a last known location of the mobile unit, then the cell/sector identification of the last known location of the mobile unit is provided. Similarly, if the locate request included a request for a current location of the mobile unit, the mobile unit is paged and the mobile unit user issues a

page response that indicates the cell/sector identification in which the mobile unit currently operates.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Verdonk fails to teach the novel invention of a system involving a status information service for a mobile telecommunication networking system, where only a subscriber status information server issues queries to a customer care infrastructure, as claimed in Applicants' independent claim 1. Specifically, Applicants' claim 1, as amended, positively recites:

1. A status information service for a mobile telecommunication network comprising:
customer care infrastructure in communication with the mobile telecommunication network and adapted to answer status information queries; and
a subscriber status information server adapted for use with the customer care infrastructure and capable of issuing status information queries only to the customer care infrastructure. (Emphasis added)

Applicants' invention is directed to a status information service for a mobile telecommunications network for querying the status of a mobile device. More particularly, the network comprises a customer care server which has direct access to a Home Location Register (HLR) and a Mobile Telephone Switching Office (MTSO) systems in order to obtain status information of a mobile subscriber. The present invention's architecture also entails a status information server which is coupled to the customer care server. In fact, the status information server can only acquire a mobile subscriber's status information from the customer care infrastructure by directly accessing the customer care server. This limitation is depicted in Figure 1 of the Applicants' application and described in the recently amended claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner likens the Applicants' subscriber status information server and the customer care infrastructure to the customer server and the Service Control Point (SCP) respectively described in Verdonk. As taught by Verdonk, the SCP sends a locate request to the HLR of the wireless communication system and requests the location of the serviced mobile unit (see Verdonk, column 2, lines 33-36). This statement clearly indicates that the SCP is directly connected to the HLR and can obtain location information (i.e., status information) through this connection. Similarly, Verdonk describes the customer server having the ability to access the wireless

communication system via a packet data network to retrieve location information for mobile units (see Verdonk, column 4, lines 42-44). This statement also establishes that the customer server possesses the ability to obtain location information through its direct connection to the network. Collectively, the above statements demonstrate that both the SCP and customer server can individually and independently obtain a mobile subscriber's location information. This is supported by Figure 1 of the Verdonk patent, which shows the SCP and the customer server connected to the network in a "parallel" fashion.

Conversely, Figure 1 of the Applicants' invention reveals that in order for the status information server to acquire the status (i.e. location) information requested by the SCP and customer server (as described in Verdonk), the status information server must communicate with the customer care infrastructure via the customer care server. This critical aspect distinguishes the Applicants' invention from the prior art detailed in Verdonk. Thus, the Applicants respectfully contend that Verdonk fails to anticipate the Applicants' invention and claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder.

Claims 2-7

Dependent claims 2-7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and recite additional features thereof. As such and for the exact same reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2-7 are not anticipated by the teachings of Verdonk. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claims 2-7 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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